

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5897

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, T, CY, GR

SUBJ: SOVIET DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS ON GREEK ELECTIONS

1. SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY, IVAN PAKHOMOV, TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT SOVIETS WANT COALITION GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE IN GREECE. CARAMANLIS, ACCORDING TO SOVIET VIEW, WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO HEED ADVICE FROM OTHER GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS SHOULD HE WIN CONTROL OF PARLIAMENT IN COMING ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS THINK CARAMANLIS IS RIGHT LEADER AT RIGHT TIME FOR GREECE, THEY HOPE CENTER UNION WINS ENOUGH SEATS IN NEW PARLIAMENT TO BLOCK A RULING MAJORITY FOR CARAMANLIS, AND THEREFORE ASSURE THAT HE CAN BE INFLUENCED. SOVIETS DO NOT EXPECT THE POST-ELECTION GOVERNMENT WILL INCLUDE COMMUNISTS OR PAPANDREOU SUPPORTERS; THEY WILL BE SATISFIED, HOWEVER, IF IT INCLUDES SEVERAL CENTER UNION MINISTERS.

2. SOVIET FORECAST IS THAT CARAMANLIS WILL WIN 140 SEATS, THE CENTER UNION ANOTHER 100, AND THE COMMUNISTS (UNITED LEFT) AND PAPANDREOU'S PASOK A MAXIMUM OF 40. GAROUFALIAS' NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION AND THE INDEPENDENTS WILL SPLIT THE REMAINDER.

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3. PAKHOMOV SAID THE SOVIETS SUSPECT CARAMANLIS MAY

HAVE CONNIVED AT THE CREATION OF GAROUFALIAS' PARTY.
THEIR REASONING IS THAT RATHER THAN TAKE VOTES AWAY
FROM CARAMANLIS' PARTY, THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION
SHOULD ATTRACT THE SUPPORT OF THOSE RIGHTWING VOTERS --
ROYALISTS, ADHERENTS OF THE FORMER MILITARY GOVERNMENT --
WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE STAY AT HOME ON ELECTION DAY.
IF THERE ARE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION DEPUTIES IN
THE NEW PARLIAMENT, THE SOVIETS BELIEVE THEY WILL
SUPPORT CARAMANLIS ON ALL MAJOR ISSUES.
KUBISCH

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